



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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For Information
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Iowa Food Assistance Program Wins Recognition

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa's food assistance program has won national recognition for efforts to improve nutritional health among recipients and for helping low-income children enroll for free lunches at school.

The federal Food and Nutrition Service said its Excellence in Nutrition Education award was recognition of Iowa's program to inform recipients on how to use food assistance dollars to buy nutritious foods.

The award recognized states that have clear goals and objectives, that target appropriate audiences, and that can document positive behavior changes.

The Iowa Department of Human Services, which administers the food assistance program, has a contract with the Iowa Department of Health and ISU Extension to perform nutrition education.

The FNS, a division of the US Department of Agriculture, also gave Iowa DHS and the Department of Education the Outstanding Achievement in Direct Certification award. Under an agreement with the Department of Education, children whose families receive food assistance and who match the Department of Education's database are automatically signed up for free lunches at school.

This award recognized state agencies who worked together to achieve the highest percent of Food Assistance children directly certified for school lunch. In the 2008-2009 school year, 85 percent of Iowa children receiving food assistance also received free lunches at school, a 14 percent increase from the prior year.

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